

April 20, 1979

LB 138

The committee adopted this slower approach to implementing the reduction in welfare payments so that the Legislature could take a little more time and the impact would not be felt quite as quickly. These amendments were brought to us by the introducers of the bill and the committee members had no objections and the committee amendments were adopted unanimously or by all of those who were present at that particular executive session as I recall. I do support the committee amendments. I believe that Senator Kahle and Senator Goodrich, the introducers of the bill, will make further amendments and I would support those amendments as well. Generally, and I would like to say this now to avoid a lot of repetition and I know how quickly we are pressed for time in these last few days. I very much support LB 138 in this form or in the amended form. I think it is imperative that we begin to take the responsibility for Medicaid payments in the State of Nebraska. The state sets up these programs with the federal government. The guidelines are determined, not at the local level, and I think we should begin to assume the financial responsibility for the programs that we create in cooperation with the federal government and that that burden should not rest on the local level. Further I would say that this is property tax relief and I strongly support the provisions of LB 138. With that I would ask for the adoption of the committee amendments. I believe that Senator Kahle will have amendments to the committee amendments and I would support those as well.

PRESIDENT: Motion on the desk. Read the motion, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kahle first of all moves to amend the committee amendments: (Read Kahle amendment found on pages 1584 and 1585 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the reason for this amendment to the amendment simply is that we have visited with the Governor several times. Many county officials have visited with the Governor. He told me personally quite a while back that he would not support taking all of the county's share of the medical vendor payments off. As Johnny DeCamp would say, this is a compromise. We hope it is acceptable to him as it was read. You can understand that 2½% or the total amount the counties would pay would be 17½% this next year in 1979, or this year I should say; 15% com-